

Presidential Citations. Some were lieutenants, some sergeants, some corporals. Some served abroad, some stateside.

But they all served this great country. No matter the war, no matter the rank, no matter the duty, everyone of them answered America's call. In our time of need, they stepped forward and said, "I'll do it—I'll protect this country."

These heroic West Virginians came to Washington to tour our beautiful Capitol, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial.

But the tour of the World War II Memorial is a little different than in the past. On the third Always Free Honor Flight in less than a year, the visit will include a special ceremony called "Flags of Our Heroes" to honor World War II veterans who passed away before they could ever see their memorial.

Sadly, we are losing World War II veterans at the rate of approximately 800 per day—members of what we have come to recognize, and rightly so, as the "Greatest Generation."

This generation of Americans was united by a common purpose and by common values—duty, honor, courage, service, integrity, love of family and country. And their triumph over tyranny will be remembered forever.

The "Flags of Our Heroes" ceremony involves taking a photograph of an American flag with a family photo of the deceased veteran in front of the Memorial. The photo and an Honor Flight certificate will then be presented to the family—a way to show this Nation's respect and regard for their hero.

This is such a fitting gesture because, at the northern end of the World War II Memorial, the words of General George Marshall are inscribed, and they are well worth remembering every time we salute our veterans and every time this Nation prepares for war: "Our flag will be recognized throughout the world as a symbol of freedom on the one hand and overwhelming force on the other."

May it ever be so, and may God bless the United States of America and all the men and women who keep us free.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today, we honor the service of our brave men and women in the law enforcement community. As we look around at American flags flying at half-staff today, we remember those we have lost. In the years since President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls National Police Week, tens of thousands of people from departments throughout the United States and agencies around the world have come to Washington, DC., to mark this day.

As they say, there is no such thing as an off-duty police officer. Our men and

women in law enforcement work tirelessly to protect our communities. While it is often in emergencies that we remark at their courage and perseverance, we know that they remain vigilant every day. Especially this year, as our community recovers from the cowardly and despicable terrorist attack in Boston last month, we acknowledge the hazards that our police officers face and the sacrifices that they make in the service of their communities. We remember Sean Collier and pay respect to his family, to his friends, and to his brothers and sisters in the police force.

The members of our law enforcement community have earned our respect, gratitude, and support. In Massachusetts, we honor Andrew J. Tufts, Frederick G. Mercer, John W. Powers, James A. Callahan Sr., Ryan Tvelia, Kevin E. Ambrose, Jose Torres, John P. Gibbons III, and Peter James Kneeland. They are among 321 law enforcement heroes who died in the line of duty, whose names have been engraved this spring on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC.

As we take this moment to thank our police officers for all that they do every day, we are also reminded that we must continue to work in Congress to make sure that our agencies have the resources they need in their important work protecting our communities.

#### VETERANS' OUTREACH ACT OF 2013

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have pledged to improve outreach activities to better inform our Nation's over 22 million veterans of the benefits to which they are entitled.

Legislation I introduced last week, the Veterans' Outreach Act of 2013, would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a 2-year demonstration project to award grants to State and local government programs and nonprofit organizations to improve the coordination and collaboration of veterans' health care and benefit services across Federal, State, and local assets. By providing State and local government programs and nonprofit organizations the opportunity to submit a grant proposal with stated goals and objectives, VA would be able to better leverage the countless services across the Nation that support veterans and their family members. Finally and most importantly, my legislation would require recipients to submit outcomes data back to VA in order to document a recipient's ability to increase awareness, efficiency, and effectiveness of Federal, State, and local outreach activities; enhance the availability of Federal, State, and local resources for veterans; and strengthen the overall culture of community-based support within a given community across our great Nation. With this

2-year demonstration project, VA will be able to examine what outreach activities work and reassess its outreach strategy accordingly.

Last month I was in Brooklyn, NY, where I met two combat veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One was a U.S. Marine Corps captain and the other was a sergeant in the U.S. Army. Both were receiving health care at VA and struggling to pay for their copays. Similarly, both were unaware of their eligibility to receive 5 years of free health care at VA following their most recent discharged from Active Duty. Most displeasing was the lack of understanding of this very same health care benefit by senior VA officials who accompanied me that day. If senior VA officials are unaware of such a principal health care benefit available to combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, much more remains to be done inside and outside of VA to ensure veterans of all eras are informed and understand the benefits and services they are entitled.

I urge my colleagues to ask veterans across their State and see how many understand all of the benefits and services available to them. For instance, countless veterans across this Nation remain unaware that some of them may be entitled to one-time dental care if they apply at VA within 180 days of separation from Active Duty. Little known benefits like this, can go a long way in placing our newest generation of veterans on sound footing following their exit from military service. Other veterans may be eligible for no-cost or low-cost health care and medications if they meet eligibility requirements for VA health care. To claim this coverage they must enroll at their local Department of Veterans Affairs medical center. These uncertainties surrounding VA health care eligibility will most certainly be compounded by the additional health care options that become available as we approach implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Veterans need to know and understand their options.

The men and women who have sacrificed so much in defense of this country deserve to know about the benefits and care to which they are entitled, and it is VA's job to make sure they know. Simply knowing about benefits in certain instances is not enough. If VA is trying to reach rural veterans, knowing where and when a mobile vet center will visit your community is critical. If VA is trying to reach more and more veterans in the community, knowing when and where the local medical center or community-based outpatient clinic will hold events and activities can drive up the number of veterans in attendance. Furthermore, VA needs to do more to proactively identify outreach efforts that work locally while leveraging the countless services supporting veterans that are made available by organizations all across the country.

Highly able and willing organizations and agencies are already providing